

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

BOARD AGENDA # *B-4

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE April 1, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Expend up to \$50,000 in Net County Cost Savings Toward the Purchase of New Water Intake Screens at Woodward Reservoir

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, or designee, to expend up to \$50,000 from Net County Cost Savings toward the purchase of new water intake screens at Woodward Reservoir.
2. Authorize the referenced payment to be made to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost of rebuilt water intake screens is \$30,000. In comparison, the cost of new water intake screens is estimated at \$80,000 or a difference of \$50,000. The Department's Legal Budget adopted by the Board of Supervisors for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 included \$544,993 in Net County Cost Savings, a portion of which could be used for this expense. County staff is working with its partners, including the City of Oakdale, to possibly contribute toward this expense. The exact amount of their contributions toward the \$50,000 maximum expense is not yet known.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2014-146

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman De Martini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

Stanislaus County has been in a partnership with the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) for the past 55 years regarding Woodward Reservoir. Specifically, the County and SSJID have a License Agreement which covers the fishing and recreational activities at the site. In typical years, SSJID fills the reservoir in the spring to a level of 202 feet or more. State regulations require that when recreational activities involve body-to-water contact, the reservoir must be maintained at no less than 202 feet so that the water "intake" point occurs at an upper location where body-to-water contact is excluded. When the water level drops below the 202 feet level, the water intake point shifts to a lower level where body-to-water contact must be restricted. "Body to water" activities include things such as wading, swimming, jet skiing, and water skiing. This is necessary because the reservoir is a source of drinking water for communities in San Joaquin County.

With the State of California facing its third year of drought conditions, the SSJID Board of Directors voted on February 25, 2014, to maintain the water level in the 192-195 feet range in March and April. Because Woodward is a fairly shallow reservoir, the higher the water level the greater the water loss is through evaporation and seepage. A recent inspection of the upper water intake location revealed that the screens which prevent debris from entering the water conveyance system are in serious need of rebuilding or replacement. County staff met with members of the SSJID staff and the Board on March 24, 2014, to discuss options for filling the reservoir to at least the 202 feet level in order to allow body-to-water contact and preserve the County's ability to have recreational activities for the 2014 summer season. It was at this time that County staff learned of the condition of the water intake screens which impacts SSJID's ability to pull from the upper intake that would allow body to water recreational activities.

The screens can be rebuilt at an approximate cost of \$30,000, however, a turn-around six to eight weeks would be needed. In contrast, the purchase of new screens could be made in approximately three weeks but at a cost of approximately \$80,000. In the interest of providing the County the greatest ability to have body-to-water contact recreational activities this summer, staff is requesting approval to pay up to \$50,000 of the cost of the new screens in order to begin recreational activities by May.

The repercussions of Woodward Reservoir potentially closing are significant. Recreational activities at this park brought in \$1.7 million in revenue during Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and the anticipated revenue for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 was to be even higher. Closing the reservoir during the summer months would also have a corresponding impact to surrounding communities such as Oakdale, and it is for this reason that the County is looking to partner in this effort by obtaining one or more contributions toward this \$50,000 expense. Any contributions that are successfully obtained would reduce the County's contribution to SSJID by an equivalent amount.

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POLICY ISSUE:

This action is consistent with the Board's priorities of a Safe Community, A Healthy Community, A Well Planned Infrastructure System, and the Efficient Delivery of Public Services by helping to keep Woodward Reservoir open for the 2014 summer season to assist in promoting a safe and healthy environmental and improving the quality of life in Stanislaus County.

STAFFING IMPACTS:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jami Aggers, Director of Parks and Recreation
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